

TOPICAL TIDBITS



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AMERICAN SYMBOLS

OLD GLORY

Of all the patriotic symbols that represent our country, none is more widely known throughout the world than the red, white, and blue of our flag. On April 3, 2003, the United States issued its second prestige booklet in New York. The subject: Old Glory.

A prestige booklet is a stamp booklet that has oversized panes of stamps with descriptive and informative pages that commemorate a specific topic. The U.S. Postal Service issued a 28-page Old Glory booklet which tells the history of the American flag. Within the booklet pages are five colorful 37-cent stamps depicting a folk art representation of Uncle Sam riding a high wheel bicycle, the 1888 presidential campaign badge of Benjamin Harrison, a souvenir bookmark from the 1893 World Columbian Exposition, a modern Stars and Stripes folding fan, and a 19th century hand-painted carving of a woman holding a sword and a U.S. flag.

There are two pages containing ten stamps each. The remaining pages of the booklet are filled with images of flag-related ephemera, many from the collection of Richard D. Sheaff who wrote and designed the flag booklet.

The first flag was approved by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1776. Although popular stories suggest that George Washington approached Betsy Ross and asked her to design the first American flag, those stories cannot be confirmed by historians. In 1818, legislation was passed by Congress fixing the number of stripes on the flag at 13, the number of original colonies. The number of white stars in the blue field was to equal the number of states in the union. The last star to be added came in 1960 when Hawaii became a state.

Did you know that the U.S. flag appears on more than 100 different U.S. stamps? On some issues the flag is so small that you need a magnifying glass to see it. Start your own collection of U.S. flag stamps today!



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



Below are some interesting facts about the Statue of Liberty.

- Construction of the Statue began in France in 1875 and took 9 years to complete.
- The height of the Statue from her heel to the top of her head is 111 feet, 6 inches.
- There are 154 steps from the pedestal to the head of the Statue of Liberty.
- The Statue has a 35-foot waistline.
- There are seven rays on her crown, one for each of the seven continents, and they measure up to 9 feet in length and weigh as much as 150 pounds.
- The total weight of the Statue of Liberty is 225 tons (or 450,000 pounds).
- The face on the Statue of Liberty measures more than 8 feet tall.
- The arm holding the torch measures 46 feet; the index finger, 8 feet; the nose, nearly 5 feet.
- The Statue's sandals are size 879 and are each 25 feet long.
- The exterior copper covering of the Statue of Liberty is less than the thickness of two pennies and the light green color (called a patina) is the result of natural weathering of the copper

Use a stamp catalog to find out the year each stamp below was issued.



U.S. SYMBOLS MATCH-UP

Match the U.S. symbol to its location. How many have you visited?



1.



A.



2.



B.



3.



C.



4.



D.



5.



E.



6.



F.

PATRIOTIC FUN

JOKES

Q: What rock group has four men who don't sing?

A: Mount Rushmore

Q: What happened as a result of the Stamp Act?

A: The Americans licked the British!

Q: What was Thomas Jefferson's favorite dessert?

A: Monti-jello!

Q: What did the visitor say as he left the Statue of Liberty?

A: "Keep in torch!"

The United States flag has gone through many changes over the years as new states were added. Use the information on each stamp to put the flags in order from 1-6.

Do You Know?

Do you know what these three presidents have in common?

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

James Monroe



They all died on July 4th. Both Jefferson and Adams died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the singing of the Declaration of Independence. Five years later, in 1831, Monroe died.





Patriotic

U.S. Flags

